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The right tool for the job

Equipment for lifting in industrial applications has changed significantly over the past 40 or so years. With rental companies increasingly investing in main stream mobile All Terrain cranes with continually increasing nominal capacities, the once popular 10 to 20 tonne 'jack of all trades' mobile pick and carry cranes of the 1960's, 70's and perhaps 80s have generally been ignored by most manufacturers and with uncertain demand from rental companies they appear to have had their day, at least in the mainstream market.

The ironic aspect is that most crane rental companies have at least one old, small pick and carry crane and if the truth be known, it probably provides the best return on investment of any size and type of crane in the fleet. While Jones/Iron Fairy, Coles and Neal-type of cranes are no longer available there is now even a growing scarcity of 30 to 40 tonne City type AT cranes - a combination of companies looking to increase capacities when replacing older cranes and poor returns of investment due to the high initial investment and low rental rates.

You would think that the lack of a smaller road-going pick & carry crane would be an open invitation for a manufacturer to spot and exploit the gap in the market? Why for example does the concept do so well in Australia with the Franna solution, and not in Europe? Perhaps this will change again in the future? But there is no sign of it happening at the moment. However visitors to last month's Vertical Days will have no doubt noticed a refurbished eight tonne Tadano on the Crowland Cranes stand, using the superstructure of an old Tadano TS75 mounted on a new DAF LR 45.150 chassis.

A JMG MC45



The refurbished 8 tonne Tadano TS75 from Crowland Cranes

Refurbished Tadano

Peterborough-based Crowland Cranes is obviously ahead of the curve on this one and is offering refurbished small cranes, in this case mounted on a modern chassis

for very reasonable money. The TS75 at Vertical Days was priced between £40-45,000 with donor crane.

This solution of putting an old superstructure onto a modern chassis is now becoming more popular and at the same time any original technical issues, such as the mechanical/electrical throttles on the Tadano/chassis, are usually sorted out. With a lift height of around 21 metres the Tadano TS75 is the perfect general purpose crane being small enough to carry out industrial lifts and with enough boom and capacity for house building work such as placing roof trusses and chimneys etc. With customers renting these out at around £450 a day they make excellent financial sense - hence their growing popularity. Crowland has also added a refurbished unit into its rental fleet so that it can lend it to customers allowing them to continue working while their old crane is refurbished, making the whole process even easier.

The traditional type of pick & carry cranes now largely supplied by Italian manufacturers including Ormig, Valla, Galizia as well as JMG and Jekko - also appear to be making a comeback in Europe,



Valla 90E working in an automotive parts factory

possibly helped along by the introduction of smaller more compact units and more efficient battery electric power packs. The appointment of more active dealers, many with rental fleets - in the UK there is GGR, Hird, Crowland Cranes and Compact Lifting Equipment - also means equipment has a much higher profile which is always good for boosting sales by allowing customers to rent and try the before they buy.

To some extent, the American pick & carry cranes mostly carry-deck types - particularly the Grove Yardboss/Shuttlelift Carrydeck and Broderson or the Australian Terex-Franca style go some way to



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offering a viable alternative to the older 'Iron Fairy' type products, particularly as these cranes are capable of being driven reasonable distances either on the road between sites or when working on larger facilities. Being diesel powered has its advantages as battery powered units and long travel distances do not mix well - at least not yet. The Italian manufacturers tend either to go for the pure rear-steer industrial units that are not well suited to road travel or jump to Rough Terrain cranes.

Another crane type that has a strong industrial potential that the European crane rental industry has apparently missed for many years now is the smaller Japanese-type City All Terrain, but as neither Tadano nor Kato appear to have any intention to re-introduce these small cranes to the European market refurbished older units look to be the only viable solution. Although the emergence of Japanese mini crawler and spider cranes also offer solutions for industrial lifting and are easy to transport.

But industrial lifting and moving equipment is so widespread in that anything goes so long as it can operate in the confined spaces and relatively low headroom that are a feature of most production buildings. In previous industrial lifting features we have looked at specialist products such as the Versa-Lift machines made by Custom Mobile Equipment, Kansas, USA. These super forklifts have found a real niche lifting and moving very heavy industrial equipment. Versa-Lift's largest truck - the 100/140 - can lift 45.4 tonnes without extending its frame/ballast and has a maximum extended capacity of 63.5 tonnes. It has two all-electric powered versions -

the 25/35E and the 40/60E - and remote controlled versions are also available.

However one of the most powerful pieces of lifting and moving equipment for its compact size lies at the opposite end of the spectrum, and it is also available at a fraction of the cost.

PowerAttack

The latest version of the PowerAttack is an innovative tool which looks like a powered broom handle but can move loads up to 25 tonnes using unpowered skates/dollies in confined spaces rather than using a fork lift truck or crane. The product uses the 'leverage' and 'grip or traction' principal and powered non-marking wheels. It measures just 1,650mm long and has a two stage (250mm) telescoping handle giving a total length of 2,150mm and weighs 75kg with one battery. For larger loads using additional PowerAttacks increases the capacity i.e. two can move 50 tonnes, three 75 tonnes etc.

The product was originally known as the PowerCat but name conflicts with a large American equipment manufacturer meant that it was easier to continue by changing to PowerAttack. Available in two versions - the cordless battery powered MTC 25 CC and mains powered MTC 25C - they use a 24 volt synchronous motor with one kW power output providing smooth, continuous forward and reverse functions and emergency stop. The cordless PowerAttack has two 24v/25amp hour lithium polymer packs giving a variable speed from zero to 20 metres per minute and lasting between two to three hours depending on work conditions.

However the latest upgraded version features a 48 volt drive



Process Group Toronto Canada using the PowerAttack on the third floor of a building - which no fork lift truck could access - to move a 15 ton laser tooling machine.

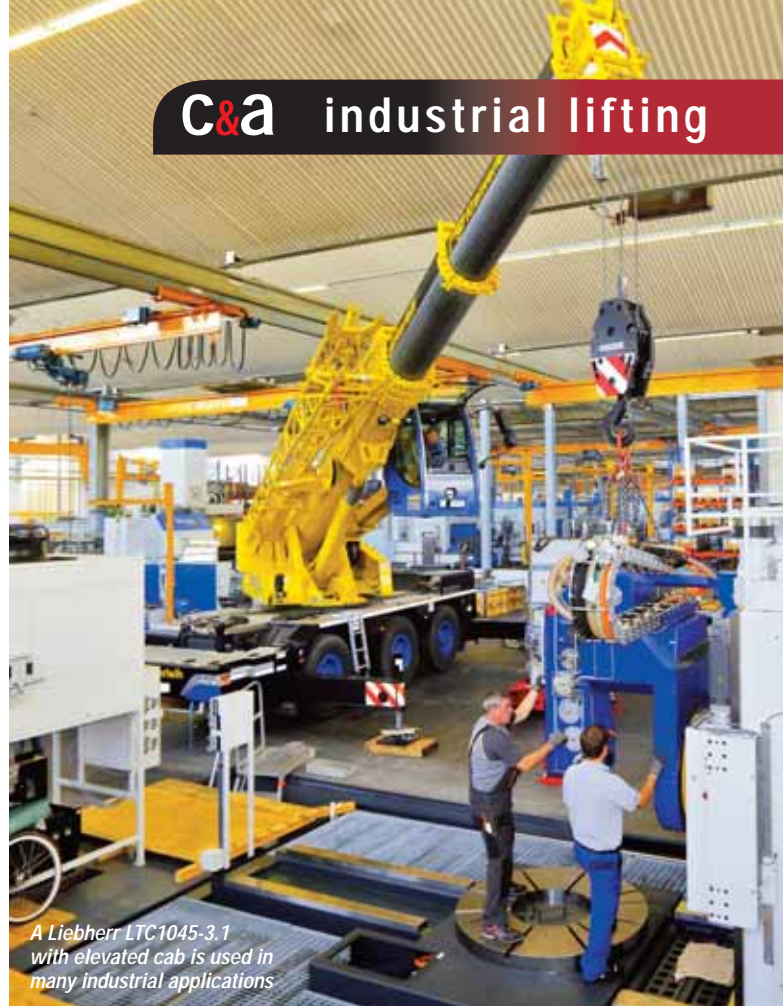


A 5.5 tonne and a 9 tonne Ormig pick & carry cranes helping with an industrial installation

motor with integrated planetary drive doubling the torque. The motor features an integrated brake which automatically releases when starting to push/pull and applies when the drive trigger is released. Lithium polymer batteries capacity was boosted from 10Ah to a powerful long lasting 25 Ah and 600 load cycles giving an operating life of three to four hours.

The 'powered broom handle' uses an adaptor to connect to most steerable skates - such as German made GKS-Perfekt or Jung - and

works like the kingpin of a tractor steering and manoeuvring (forward- reverse) a semi-trailer. The required starter package includes the PowerAttack, a set of skates and two hydraulic 10 tonne jacks for a capacity of 24 tonnes. To date a total of about 300 units (including about 80 of the battery/cordless) have been sold all around the world proving that it is not the size of the equipment but about finding the right tool for the job.



A Liebherr LTC1045-3.1 with elevated cab is used in many industrial applications

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Classic Italian design

While the basic design of Italian pick & carry cranes has changed little over the past 50 years, it has certainly not stood still. Most of the recent developments are evolutionary improvements in performance, comfort and more efficient production. There is also a renewed interest in the modern, compact, pedestrian operated two tonne capacity products first introduced by Valla. However the time it took the company to develop and expand production to satisfy the growing demand has meant that other manufacturers - such as Jekko, Galizia and JMG have entered the market with versions of their own and a number of improvements.

Multi-purpose crane

One of the more interesting introductions in recent years has been a multi-purpose crane from Galizia. The Multis 636 (the numbering indicating the maximum load, load on forks and lift height) is a combination of a pick & carry crane, telehandler and work platform. The product is able to lift six tonnes on its main hook and 3.5 tonnes on its fork or bucket attachments making this a real multifunctional machine. However it is the Multis' low overall height and low boom pivot point that really makes it different from other cranes. In telehandler mode the low boom pivot point means that it can easily telescope a load right to the back of small vans.

At 3.3 metres long and 1.73 metres wide the unit is compact and has an exceptionally small turning circle - possibly as good as a three wheel crane - with true 90 degree crank angle steering on the rear axle.

Drive is direct via twin AC electric motors on the front axle that can also counter rotate to help improve the crane's turning circle and reduce stress build-up during sharp turns. A separate AC motor is used to drive the crane hydraulics. The telehandler tool bar can take a wide variety of attachments including forks, forks with side-shift, buckets, integrated platform, winch, searcher hooks and jibs etc.

an eight metre tip height. At its maximum horizontal reach of 5.5 metres the GF60 can lift 900kg. Overall height is just over two metres, weight is 6.2 tonnes and width is 1.73 metres.

At Bauma Galizia also added the smaller Multis 215 and GF25 based on the same chassis. The GF25 is a classic pick & carry crane, while the Multis 215 is a smaller version of the 636. Both are electric powered



The Multis low boom pivot point allows it to telescope a load into the back of small vans

Galizia has been very innovative in the pick & carry market with numerous 'firsts' to its name. including the first full remote control of all crane movements on a GF250 in 2007 and the first to install the two motor front drive system with counter rotations on the GF200 the following year. The company also used the Multis 636 as a basis to launch its six tonne dedicated crane version - the GF60 - which has a longer three section boom offering

and offer a maximum lift capacity of 2.5 tonnes. The Multis 215 is equipped with a special tool holder/bar, which incorporates hydraulic auto-levelling and allows quick attachment of a range of tools including forks, a work platform, vacuum suction system and jib etc. . .

The two models are extremely compact at just over two metres long, 930 mm wide with an overall height of 1.41 metres. Both feature

dual motor front wheel drive and the company's wide rear steering axle that gives these four wheeled machines the ability to turn as tightly as a three wheel unit. Given the success of the Multis Galizia is in the process of launching a larger version which should be unveiled in October. The Multis 948 will have a nine tonne maximum capacity, 4.5 tonnes on forks and an eight metre lift height.

New entrant expands

Newest entrant in the pick & carry sector is Italian manufacturer JMG. The company was formed late in 2009 by ex-Valla general manager Maurizio Manini and Emilio Berti. Since then the company has grown and increased its product line to 14 models with capacities from two to 60 tonnes. At the end of last year it added a second 4,000 square metre production hall with 3,000 square metres of yard space to its facility in Saramato near Piacenza. Its existing facility which it has operated since its launch will now be dedicated to maintenance and product support. The company has recently sold its first crane into Russia to Russian transmission manufacturer ZF Kama



Tight rear axle steering on the Multis 636

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for its factory in Naberezhnye Chelny, Republic of Tatarstan The 3.2 tonne capacity battery electric MC32 boasts a three section telescopic boom which offers a seven metre lift height and up to four metres radius. The crane features twin AC electric drive motors, a tight 90 degree crank angle rear steer and has been equipped with the additional winch. It weighs just under three tonnes.

Cranes since the 1940s

Valla has been producing pick & carry cranes for more than 65 years. The company was formed in 1945 by Antonio Valla when he started importing and modifying US Army Surplus machines to rebuild Milan after World War II. 16 years later he and his son John produced the company's first three tonne capacity Precision crane followed in 1975 with the first commercial electric powered 30E. By 1993 it produced its first carry deck battery powered unit and in 1999 its first hybrid model - the 40T E/D.

However it is the smaller two to 2.5 tonne capacity cranes launched a few years ago that have appealed to a wider audience. These are ideal for working in areas where space is restricted including aviation petro-chemical, glass handling, construction and engineering. However the speed with which construction projects are now

completed, together with the complexities of modern buildings means project managers are using these small pick & carry cranes on upper floors in increasing numbers. As well as being used for glass handling where repeated multiple operations and a continuous process are critical to efficiency, they are also being used for moving and placing timber shuttering and steel framed formwork moulds.

A crane such as the tracked Valla 20D TRX is ideal for many aspects of this shuttering and formwork task. With a lifting capacity of two tonnes it is capable of lifting a wide range of shuttering forms, yet is small and agile enough, as a pick and carry crane, to be moved quickly around busy building sites.

Another company dating back to the 1940s is the big boy of Italian pick & carry cranes Ormig which built its first cranes in 1949. Traditionally its strength lay with larger diesel powered pick & carry models and truck cranes. However it is increasingly focussing on smaller pick & carry models and modern battery power units. Its little five tonne machine the 5.5tmE has been very successful and in some areas it is attracting increased interest from crane rental buyers. Its electric range now includes seven models topped out by a 45 tonner.



First JMG crane for Russia. Russian transmission manufacturer ZF Kama has taken delivery of the first JMG industrial crane for its factory in Naberezhnye Chelny, Republic of Tatarstan



A Valla 75E working in an oil refinery



Ormig built its first cranes in 1949 and its strength lay in the larger diesel pick & carry models and truck cranes

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Terex by a long neck...

Last month's *Cranes & Access* cover (below) featured a rare Rothschild giraffe being relocated from Melbourne Zoo in Australia to the Mogo Zoo on the southern coast of New South Wales 800km away. Whilst not an industrial application the crane used was a Terex (Franna) AT-20 pick & carry crane.

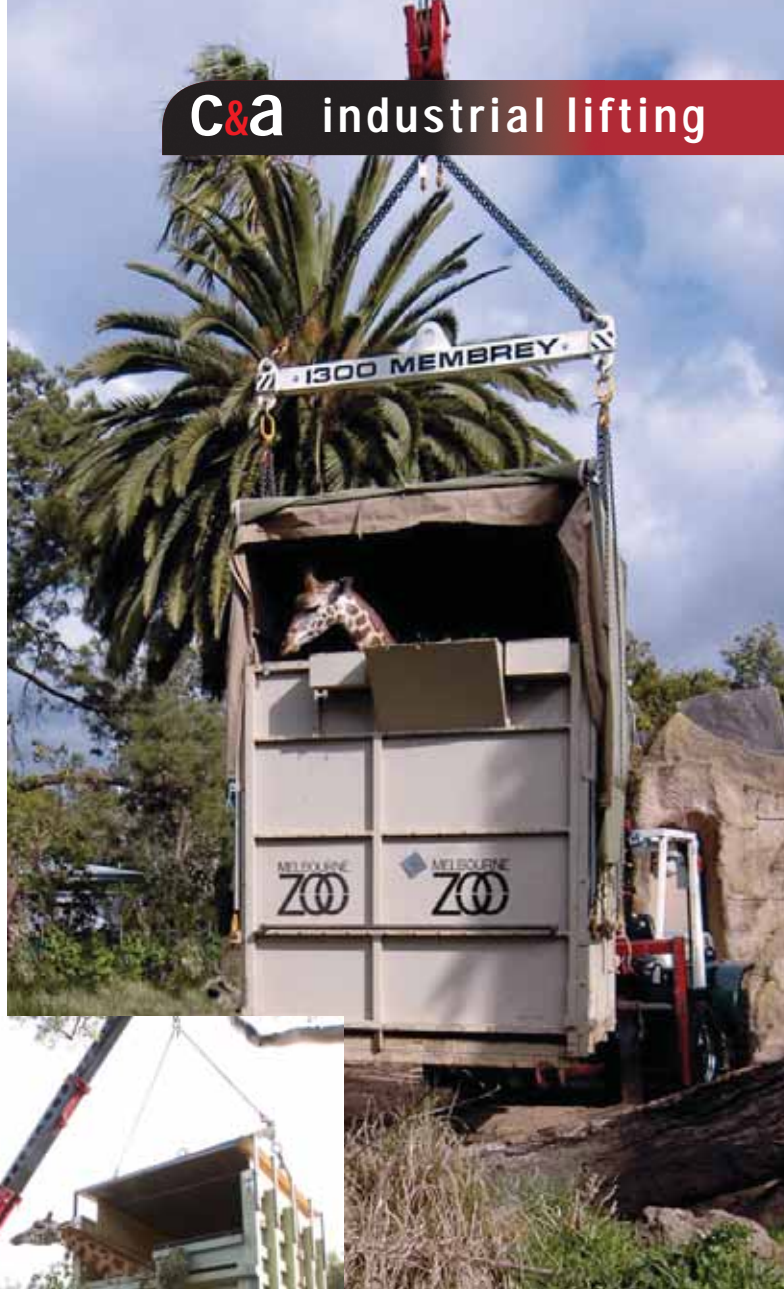
Due to the delicate nature of the cargo, Melbourne Zoo called in Membrey's Transport and Crane Hire to move Tanzi - the 10 year old, 4.8 metre tall giraffe - as part of the regional breeding program that would also see Tanzi reunited with her sister Shani.

"We have moved a variety of large and small exotic zoo animals for around 30 years," said Craig

Membrey. "For this move, we were required to lift and transport the animal in a specially made giraffe crate and selected our Terex AT-20 as the best crane for the task."

To minimize stress during the move, Melbourne Zoo conducted more than two months of crate training, to ensure Tanzi was relaxed and comfortable enough to travel in the crate. As well as the potential for emotional strain, transporting such a tall and heavy animal also presented a number of logistical challenges.

"Moving animals of this size requires detailed route planning, such as avoiding low bridges, while also ensuring minimum impact on the animal by completing the move in the



The Terex AT-20 lifting the crate from the trailer



shortest possible time," he said. "The Terex AT-20 was ideal for this application. Its smooth controls gave the crane operator the ability to position the crate with gentle, fluid movements throughout the operation. These highly versatile road cranes can be dispatched quickly to wherever they are needed via any road, and have the manoeuvrability, power and versatility to lift almost anything, anywhere."

First Galizia GF400 for Jozef Hermans

Dutch lifting and haulage company Jozef Hermans has ordered the first 40 tonne Galizia GF400 battery powered pick & carry crane. Fabio Vercelli-Galizia, managing director of Galizia, said: "I am very happy because Jos Hermans (Jozef Hermans' technical director) bought a GF200 with radio remote control five years ago. He has since made a lot of important industrial movements in factories throughout Europe with this machine and has now once again chosen Galizia cranes to improve his fleet."



The Galizia GF400

A lifting duo with perfect chemistry

A Unic URW-706 mini spider crane teamed up with a new Cormidi GKB19-4 Multipla to help dismantle and install machinery at a chemical manufacturing facility in Clitheroe, Lancashire, in the UK.

The multipurpose GKB19-4 was used as a work platform at the plant which specialises in manufacturing catalysts and catalytic converters for automotive industry and fuel cells. The compact GKB19-4 worked in the limited space available, helping to strip pipework away from a machine that was to be dismantled. A more practical alternative to a scaffold, the GKB19-4's flexible boom with hydraulic articulated joints

meant that the working platform could access more hard-to-reach areas by moving under and over obstacles.

Staff working at a 14 metre height inside the Cormidi's basket were able to cut the pipes and sling each section for the six tonne capacity Unic spider crane to remove. Once the pipework was lifted away, the Unic crane dismantled the nine tonne machine by lifting each of its 1,000kg pieces at a 13 metre height.

Whilst on site, the GKB19-4 was also used to inspect the facility's overhead gantry crane, helping to install a block and tackle for moving a vessel into its correct position.



New Grove YardBoss

Grove recently launched a new version of the YardBoss YB5520. The 18 tonne industrial crane is said to be a complete redesign, replacing the older 16 tonne YB5518.

The crane is also the first to be fully CE certified with all other YB cranes due to be CE certified this summer. The YB5520 has a 16.6 metre four-section, full-power boom and is available with two jib options - a 4.6 metre extension and a new

adjustable 4.6 to 7.6 metre swingaway. Footprint of the YB5520 is 4.6 by 2.4 metres, with an overall height of 2.5 metres. It has four wheel steer, including crab with self-alignment and a pivoting boom nose - adjustable to five positions from minus 30 to 80 degrees. Other features include a two speed hoist, a 3.3 litre, Euromot 3B Cummins diesel and ITL power shift transmission and a new outrigger monitoring system.



Grove launched the new YardBoss YB5520 at Bauma

First 16t Ormig Crane for UK



Lockerbie, Scotland-based Haas-Tek Services has taken delivery of a 16 tonne Ormig electric powered pick and carry crane. This, the first unit in the UK, was supplied with solid tyres and hydraulic luffing fly jib.

Supplied by distributor Crowland Cranes, the unit was ordered and delivered within a three week time scale with Haas-Tek seeing the crane for the first time at Vertical Days last month. Initial contracts for the Ormig include work at a

large food plant and work on the new set of UK TV soap opera Coronation Street.



(L-R) Peter Issit, Crowland Cranes with Jim Bell and Ian King of Haas-Tek and Ormig's Gian Paolo Aschero with it's new 16 tonne battery powered Ormig pick and carry crane.



New 6x2 Man 26-400. Fassi F275
remote crane with flat or cheese
wedge body.



2010 8x2 Daf Cf 460. Fassi F660
remote crane with flat or cheese
wedge body



2009 & 2010 8x2 Scania R420.
Fassi F660 remote crane with flat or
cheese wedge body



2011 8x2 Man 26-440. Fassi F660
remote crane with flat or cheese
wedge body



New Scania 8x2 G400.
Choice of cranes and bodies



2010 Scania 8x2 R420. Fassi 455
remote crane with choice of flat or
cheese wedge



2010 8x2 Scania G400. Fassi F275
remote with cheesewedge body.
17 ton payload.



New Scania 8x2 G400. Fassi 455
remote crane with cheese
wedge body



New and used 6x2 Beavertails
in stock



New Daf 6x2 Cf 410. F275
remote crane. new chesewedge.
Man's also available



New Man 6x2. Fassi F455
remote crane with flat or
cheese wedge



Specialist bodies built
on new or used chassis